GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2537
ANSWERED ON:08.08.2000
WATER CONSERVATION AND WATERSHED PROGRAMME
CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to earmark 25 per cent of the sub-mission funds under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) and 25 per cent ofthe Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana Funds for the Watershed Management and Water Conservation Programmes:

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to restrict excessive withdrawal of ground water in the rural areas of the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) & (b): Drinking Water Supply is a State subject. The Government of India provides funds to the States to supplement the efforts of the States to provide drinking water under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP).Keeping in view the relevance of sustainability measures for checking the fast depleting ground water, it has been decided that 25% of the 20% funds earmarked for the Sub- mission projects be spent exclusively on Sub-mission projects relating to sustainability of the water sources from the financial year 2000-01.

From the year 2000-01, a new initiative in the form of Prime Minister`s Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY)has been introduced under which Additional Central Assistance (ACA) isprovided to States/UTs for selected basic minimum services in order to focus on certain priority areas of the Government.

One of the components of this scheme is Rural Drinking Water. Under the PMGY-Rural Drinking Water, minimum 25% of the total allocation for the component will b e utilised b y the respective States/UTs o n projects/schemes for water conservations, water harvesting, water recharge and sustainability of drinking water sources i n respect o f DPAP/DDPareas, over exploited dark/grey blocks and other water stress/drought affected areas.

(c) The Government have constituted a Central GroundWater Authority vide Notification dated 14.01.1997 to check indiscriminate withdrawal of ground water in the country. The authority is empowered to notify areas for the purpose of regulating indiscriminate withdrawal of ground water.It also registers ground water extraction structures.